

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01

IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /102 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS

L/NEA:BKHUFFMAN

NEA/ARN:PBULLEN

NEA/IAI:WBSMITH(SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: MAHJOUB'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS

1. UPI TODAY (NOV 12, 1975) CARRYING FOLLOWING STORY UNDER DAMASCUS DATELINE: QUOTE. THE ARAB LEAGUE'S ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY IT WILL BLACKLIST FOREIGN VESSELS THAT PASS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL WITH GOODS FOR ISRAEL.

2. QUOTE THIS MEANS THAT THESE VESSELS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ANCHOR IN ANY ARAB PORT AND WILL NOT BE SERVICED UNQUOTE, BOYCOTT COMMISSIONER GENERAL MOHAMMED AHMED MAHJOUB TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

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3. WHILE EGYPT HAS AGREED TO ALLOW CARGOES WITH ISRAELI-

BOUND GOODS TO GO THROUGH THE CANAL, IT WILL PLACE THE VESSELS ON A BLACKLIST IF THEY MAKE THE VOYAGE, MAHJOUB SAID.

4. HE SAID THE GREEK FREIGHTER OLYMPOS, THE FIRST ISRAEL-BOUND VESSEL TO TRANSIT THE CANAL UNDER THE RECENT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT, ALSO WAS THE FIRST SHIP ON THE EGYPTIAN BLACKLIST.

5. QUOTE THE REGIONAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN EGYPT HAS REQUEST-

ED THAT THIS VESSEL SHOULD BE BLACKLISTED, AND THE BOYCOTT HEADQUARTERS HAS ASKED ALL REGIONAL OFFICES TO PLACE IT ON BLACKLIST UNQUOTE, MAHJOUB SAID.

6. TURNING TO AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH COMPLY WITH THE ARAB BOYCOTT REGULATIONS, MAHJOUB SAID, QUOTE ALL ATTEMPTS BY PRO-ISRAELI QUARTERS TO MAKE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM WILL FAIL UNQUOTE. END QUOTE.

7. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO SEEN FBIS 50 QUOTING DAMASCUS MENA CONCERNING SAME PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH GIVES SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF MAHJOUB'S STATEMENTS.

8. WE UNDERSTAND FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN BASIS FOR BOYCOTT OF FOREIGN SHIPS UNDER ARAB BOYCOTT REGS IN PAST:

A) CALLING ON AN ARAB AND ISRAELI PORT ON THE SAME ROUND TRIP (TOURIST SHIPS EXCEPTED).

B) TRANSPORTING MATERIAL HELPFUL TO THE ISRAELI WAR EFFORT.

C) BEING CHARTERED TO ISRAELI COMPANIES.

D) TRANSPORTING ISRAELI INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

E) TRANSPORTING JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL.

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F) REFUSING TO PRESENT MANIFESTS OF SHIPMENTS OFF-LOADED AT ISRAELI PORTS.

9. FOR DAMASCUS: REQUEST CONFIRMATION DETAILS OF MAHJOUB'S PRESS CONFERENCE AS REPORTED PARA; 1-6 WITHOUT APPROACH TO BOYCOTT OFFICE.

10. FOR CAIRO: CAN EMBASSY ASCERTAIN AGAIN WITHOUT

APPROACH TO LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICE WHETHER EGYPT OFFICE REQUESTED BLACKLISTING OF VESSELS AS ALLEGEDLY REPORTED IN MAHJOUB PRESS CONFERENCE. IT SEEMS TO US WHETHER SHIP PUT ON BLACKLIST IS UNRELATED TO WHETHER THAT SHIP HAS TRANSITED CANAL. IF THIS ASSUMPTION STILL TRUE, THEN MAHJOUB MAY BE ATTEMPTING SUGGEST RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUTTING SHIP ON BLACKLIST AND TRANSIT OF CANAL THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN ORDER TO MUDDY WATERS AND THEREBY EMBARRASS EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY HAMPER IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI II AGREEMENT.

11. EARLY REPLY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE THIS MATTER WILL BE APPRECIATED TO ANSWER EXPECTED PRESS QUERIES NOVEMBER 13.

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